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Darlaston Urban District Council



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1954

E. P. McWHIRTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

F. G. ASHCROFT, M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1954.

*Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Darlaston.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DARLASTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report for 1954. I regret its presentation will be late, but rightly or wrongly it was decided to give precedence to the work required to be done preliminary to our onslaught on sub-standard houses.

Several incidents occurring during the year brought home to me the fact that segregation of the disabled held some dangers and the dangers were not to the disabled but to the hale. In education it is necessary to congregate the blind, the deaf and certain crippled children so that they can get the expert teaching needed for their disability but by removing all disabled and aged people from the community the source of valuable education in making people think of others instead of selfishly of themselves is lost. A great deal of mental ill health and unhappiness exists as a result of selfishness and lack of self-discipline. We are now exercising ourselves to try and prevent mental ill-health. Can we by making the care of the individual too rigidly the concern of the State be fostering mental ill-health instead of preventing it? We, as a Nation, are generally independent as individuals and our Welfare provisions by the State have largely been evolved to prevent that feeling of servile dependence that Charity can engender. Having contributed to the creation of these provisions we should not sit back and say "They (generally meaning the State) should provide" but "They can provide, but is there some little thing or sometimes some big thing that I as an individual member of the Welfare State can do?

The care of the aged should be kept as far as possible in the family but if help is needed it can be sought and provided. The Local Authority cannot get to know the aged as it does the children so that anyone who finds some elderly person who might need help should bring that person to the notice of the Local Authority.

The foregoing might appear contradictory but what it is meant to say is that the provisions made by "The Welfare State" should be looked on as an insurance against need and not as a rigid monetary transaction.

I would like to express my indebtedness to the Public Health Committee and its Chairman who helped the Public Health Department in innumerable ways to discharge its duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. P. McWHIRTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Staff.

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i> ..	E. P. McWhirter, M.B., Ch.B. (Univ. Edin.), D.P.H.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i> ..	J. S. Barker, M.S.I.E., M.S.I.A. Retired on 31/3/54.
	F. G. Ashcroft, M.S.I.A. Additional Sanitary Inspector. Appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector 1/4/54.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>	F. H. Wynne. Resigned 28/2/54.
	J. P. Moulton. Appointed 1/5/54. Resigned 11/11/54.
<i>Pupil Sanitary Inspector</i> ..	M. W. Bunch. Appointed 4/8/54.
<i>Clerks</i>	E. M. Hughes. Resigned 15/4/54.
	A. Homer.

Darlaston is a highly industrialised area.

Mr. Briggs, Manager of the Darlaston branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service has kindly given me the following report.

“ Following the slight depression in trade during 1953, and which showed signs of being overcome towards the end of the year, 1954 opened on a much brighter note and results have shown that this optimistic outlook was fully justified.

By April, 1954, all local factories were fully employed and order books were getting filled. The tempo increased during the following months and by the Mid-Summer unemployment had virtually ceased to exist. On the contrary during the last six months of the year the Employment Exchange found the greatest difficulty in meeting the day to day demands for labour, due to diminishing supplies in surrounding areas from which a large number of work-people are recruited for work in Darlaston.

As a consequence of the shortage of workers more use is being made in local factories of coloured labour although the proportion employed in Darlaston is small compared with some towns in the Midlands.”

STATISTICS.

Area in acres	1,534
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in mid 1954	21,990
Comparability factor for deaths	1.34
Comparability factor for births	0.91
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	6,190
Total Rateable value..	£93,397
Industrial Rateable value	£11,136
Sum represented by a Penny Rate in 1954	£365

Live Births.

		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	156	153	309	
Illegitimate	3	5	8	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	159	158	317	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population	14.4
Birth rate adjusted for comparison with other places per 1,000 of the resident population	13.1
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the resident population	15.2

Still Births.

		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	6	5	11	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	5	11	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population	0.5
Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	33.5
Still Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births	24

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	5	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	1
			—	—	—
			6	—	6
			—	—	—

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age.

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	2	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	1
			—	—	—
			3	—	3
			—	—	—

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	19
Death rate for England and Wales of infants under one year of age per 1,000 related live births	..	..	..	..	..	25.5
Neonatal Death rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	19.5
Neonatal Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 related live births	..	..	..	..	..	17.7

Of the six deaths under one year of age the causes of death were :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Asphyxia due to Inspiration of Liquor Amnii.

Meningitis and Hydrocephalus.

Failure of the lungs to expand at birth.

Asphyxia due to accidental inhalation of vomit.

Broncho-pneumonia.

Three of the six deaths occurred in infants under four weeks of age. The rates for England and Wales are per 1,000 related live births. Our numbers being small make rates fluctuate more than rates dealing with large numbers.

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Deaths from other causes associated with childbirth ..	Nil
Maternal Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births	0.69

Again it is gratifying to record no deaths from causes associated with childbirth in women.

Deaths.

Number of deaths from all causes	192
Death rate per 1,000 resident population	8.7
Death rate adjusted for comparison with other places ..	11.6
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 resident population	11.3

There were no deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea. It was interesting therefore to see an article by Richard Norton, M.B., D.P.H. in "The Medical Officer" in which was reproduced a letter written by a medical man in October, 1832, to a paper called "The Record" in which he depicted conditions in Darlaston during an epidemic of Cholera. Dr. Auden later wrote a letter to "The Medical Officer" stating that the conditions described were a sample of the squalor and misery of the whole of the Black Country. It was a picture of stark tragedy and only separated from our time by just over 100 years and by fewer years if we remember Belsen. So vastly different are conditions in our country now that when that article was given to several people to read, some laughed at the description.

CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory	6	2	8
Tuberculosis, Other Organs	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	2	4	6
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	6	1	7
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	0	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	7	11
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	0	1
Diabetes	0	2	2
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	8	13	21
Coronary disease, Angina	16	7	23
Hypertension with heart disease	6	2	8
Other Heart disease	15	16	31
Other Circulatory disease	5	2	7
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	5	2	7
Bronchitis	15	6	21
Other Diseases of the respiratory system	1	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	—	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	0	0
Congenital Malformations	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	10	18
Motor vehicle accidents	0	1	1
All other accidents	1	5	6
Suicide	1	2	3
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
Total all causes	104	88	192

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1954.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.			No. of cases suspected.	Confirmed.	Removal to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	24	23	5
Whooping Cough	..	..	137	138	2
Anterior Poliomyelitis	..	..	3	2	3
Measles	..	..	9	9	—
Diphtheria	..	..	2	0	2
Pneumonia	..	..	17	16	4
Erysipelas	..	..	0	0	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	2	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	1	1	1
Dysentery	..	..	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	..	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	0	0	—
Encephalitis	..	..	0	0	—

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Scarlet Fever.									
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1	—	—	7	5	—	4	1	3
1—2	2	—	15	18	—	—	—	1
3—4	—	2	23	15	2	2	3	—
5—9	5	8	22	27	1	—	3	3
10—14	2	3	1	2	—	—	2	—
15—24	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 and over	..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	13	68	70	3	6	9	7

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED AND DEATHS OCCURRING DURING 1954.

Age.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Notified by Death		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary
0—4 years	—	—	1	—	1	—
5—9 years	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 years	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—19 years	1	3	—	—	—	—
20—24 years	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—29 years	—	—	2	—	—	—
30—34 years	1	1	—	—	—	—
35—39 years	1	—	—	—	1	—
40—44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—49 years	2	—	—	—	—	1
50—54 years	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—59 years	2	1	—	—	—	2
60—64 years	2	—	—	—	—	1
65—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Total—All ages	..	13	8	1	2	1	6	1

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED SINCE 1945.

Year.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
1945	21	34	127	52	18	19	2
1946	17	21	7	18	12	15	1
1947	17	55	311	51	16	12	3
1948	6	53	169	29	10	23	
1949	39	133		25	10	16	
1950	14	78		44	13	8	
1951	2	15	174	74	9	7	
1952	33	145		41	16	4	
1953	1	28	342	89	27	6	
1954	—	23	9	138	16	21	3

This table shows how dramatic has been the fall in confirmed cases of Diphtheria since 1945 and illustrates how immunisation has helped.

Another point of interest in this table is that notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the main follow the pattern of the previous year's notifications of Pneumonia.

Diphtheria.

Two cases were admitted to hospital during the year as cases suspected of being Diphtheria, but neither case was found to be Diphtheria on further investigation.

Immunisation.

From the figures provided through the courtesy of the Stafford County Medical Officer, I estimate that about 50% of the children under five years of age are protected against Diphtheria. I would like to see this percentage much higher.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 23 cases of Scarlet Fever in 1954 compared with 28 cases in 1953. All cases appeared to be of a fairly mild nature. There were no deaths.

Measles.

During the year there were nine cases of Measles notified, compared with 342 cases in 1953. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

Now in the case of Whooping Cough there were 138 cases whereas in 1953 there were 89 cases. There were no deaths.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

There were two cases confirmed during the year. Both children recovered, but were unfortunately left with some paralysis; in one case there was paralysis of muscles in both legs and in the other case there was paralysis of muscles in one leg.

Smallpox.

From the figures supplied through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer I find 21 people were vaccinated during the year. Judging from this number and the number of certificates I have had to endorse for people going abroad, there are very few, if any, babies vaccinated. This puts us in a perilous position if smallpox should ever be introduced to our community and as I have warned before, this is possible with the speed of travel from areas where smallpox is endemic.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Dysentery.

No case of dysentery was notified in 1954.

Tuberculosis.

There were 266 cases on the Register of Tuberculosis at the end of 1954 comparing with 268 in 1953.

The number of deaths from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis has fallen during the years as shown by the following table.

Year.	Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
	Under 24.	25 to 54.	Ages.	Total.	
		55 & over.			
1945	11	6	2	19	2
1946	9	4	2	15	1
1947	6	2	4	12	3
1948	10	6	7	23	2
1949	5	7	4	16	—
1950	—	4	4	8	—
1951	1	5	1	7	4
1952	2	1	—	3	1
1953	—	5	1	6	—
1954	1	2	5	8	—

There was a death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in a child of three months. The cause of death was found at Post Mortem examination. On following up the contacts an adult case was found who was most probably the source of the child's infection. Apart from this death we have had no deaths from Tuberculosis in any age under 20 years since 1949.

Now that Mass Radiography is available for detection I would urge everyone to take advantage of the opportunity. To the elderly I would say "You are never too old." It is the unknown case that is the danger. Once anyone is aware that he suffers from Tuberculosis then that person can take precautions to prevent passing on the infection, and the elderly are just as dangerous if not more so than the young as they very often have close contact with children.

Of the deaths in 1954, five were aged 55 years or over. During these ten years Tuberculosis as a cause of death has shifted from the young to the elderly.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

The Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, deals with any bacteriological or bio-chemical investigation of disease found to be necessary.

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Admission to this is arranged through the Public Health Department or in emergency on application by the General Practitioner direct to the Hospital.

Venereal Diseases.

Treatment can be obtained either at the Manor Hospital, Walsall or at the Wolverhampton Royal Hospital.

General Hospitals.

Admission is arranged by the General Practitioner direct with the hospital.

Maternity Hospitals.

The patient's doctor arranges admission when it is necessary on medical grounds. If admission on any other ground is thought desirable, application should be made to the Health Visitor, Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston.

Midwifery.

Midwives for the district are provided by the Stafford County Council.

Health Visitors.

The shortage of Health Visiting Staff continues. The Health Visitors are appointed by the Stafford County Council.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance is now at Darlaston. Telephone No.: James Bridge 2591.

Home Helps.

This service for Darlaston is administered by the County Council through their Area Office at Wednesbury.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The report of the Engineer and Surveyor on the sewage outfall works is similar to that of last year.

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Madam Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report of the work carried out in the Department for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

It is unfortunate that this year, progress has been retarded due to the extreme shortage of staff, particularly on the technical side. For an appreciable part of the year there was only one Inspector.

Despite this shortage of staff it was necessary to undertake greatly increased duties due to new legislation.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, placed upon Local Authorities the obligation to survey their districts to formulate Slum Clearance proposals and whilst it is gratifying to Public Health workers to see just emphasis being placed upon the clearance of slum houses, the work involved in the conscientious surveying of the older properties and the formulation of a Slum Clearance Programme has thrown a great strain on the Officers having to carry out these duties. Nevertheless it is hoped that the Slum Clearance Programme for Darlaston will be published in 1955.

A further burden was placed upon the Health Department by the decontrol of slaughtering of animals for human consumption. Certain local butchers took advantage of the opportunity to recommence slaughtering, and to provide the necessary slaughtering facilities it was necessary for the Council to enter into an agreement with the owners of a local slaughterhouse to use the premises for four and a half days per week.

With the increasing difficulties of securing satisfactory demolition of houses and the proper clearing of the sites, it is becoming abundantly clear that in the future when slum clearance really gets under way, considerable thought will have to be given to avoiding blighted areas which will be detrimental to the appearance of the town. There would appear to be great scope for intelligent replanning not only from the point of view of rebuilding, but from the point of view of creating open areas where possible, to relieve the monotony of certain parts of the town.

Whilst much worthwhile work has been carried out during the year, much remains to be done, and it is hoped that means will be found to ease the staff position in the future to enable the vital work of the Health Department to be carried out efficiently.

In conclusion I would like to record my sincere thanks to the Members of the Council for their support during the year. My thanks are no less due to the Chief Officers of other Departments, particularly for the co-operation extended, and to the Medical Officer of Health and the staff of the Department generally for loyal support and interest throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. ASHCROFT.

HOUSING.

The following houses were erected by the Council during the year :—

Street.	Aged Persons Bungalows.	Two Bedrooms.	Three Bedrooms.	Four Bedrooms.
Banfield Avenue ..	6	—	—	—
Cairn Drive ..	—	—	2	2
Churchill Road ..	—	24	26	—
Cornwall Place ..	—	12	—	—
Cunningham Road ..	—	16	12	—
Edinburgh Avenue ..	—	24	14	—
Everest Road ..	—	—	6	—
Hall Street East ..	—	—	1	—
Kennedy Crescent ..	2	—	—	—
Kent Road ..	—	—	6	—
Margaret Road ..	—	6	8	—
Montgomery Road ..	—	—	14	—
Mountbatten Road ..	—	4	2	—
Princess Anne Road ..	—	—	4	—
Queen Elizabeth Avne.	—	—	2	—
Roberts Close ..	—	6	3	—
Rough Hay Road ..	—	—	1	—
Wilkes Avenue ..	—	10	6	4
Total of each type ..	8	102	107	6
Total, all types ..	223			

The following houses were built by Private Enterprise :—

Richards Street ..	..	..	..	..	4
Wilkes Avenue ..	..	..	..	..	8
Wolverhampton Road West ..	..	..	..	..	1
Total ..	..	..	..	..	13

Total of new houses erected in 1954 :—

Council ..	..	..	..	..	..	223
Private ..	..	..	..	..	..	13
						236

HOUSING ACT, 1936.**Houses physically demolished.**

Beard Street, 8	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bush Street, 8, 9, 10	..	..	..	..	..	3
Catherines Cross, 79, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126	..	..	..	..	..	8
Foundry Street, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 56a, 56b, 56c, 56d, 56e, 56f, 56g, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65	..	..	..	..	..	23
High Street (Darlaston), 22	..	..	..	..	..	1
Moxley Road, 58, 60, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78	..	..	..	..	..	8
Park Street, 3, 5, 5a, 7, 9, 11, 13	..	..	..	..	..	7
St. George's Street, Court 1, Houses 4, 5, 6, 8	..	..	..	..	..	4
Station Street, 67	..	..	..	..	..	1
Victoria Road, 10, 11	..	..	..	..	..	2
						—
						58
						—

Houses which became void—Formal Action.

Blockall, 49, 53	..	..	..	..	..	2
Catherines Cross, 118, 119	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cross Street, 11	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dangerfield Lane, 18	..	..	..	..	..	1
Factory Street, 22, 23	..	..	..	..	..	2
Foundry Street, 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6a, 6b, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37/38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 48, 51, 55, 56, 56a, 56f, 60, 61, 62	..	..	..	..	..	38
Heath Road, The Bungalow	..	..	..	..	..	1
Heathfield Lane, 19	..	..	..	..	..	1
High Street (Moxley), 8, 10	..	..	..	..	..	2
Moxley Road, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 54, 56, Court 1, House 1	..	..	..	..	..	12
Park Street, 5, 5a, 7, 11, 13	..	..	..	..	..	5
Pinfold Street, 62	..	..	..	..	..	1
St. George's Street, Court 1, Houses 10, 11	..	..	..	..	..	2
Station Street, 67	..	..	..	..	..	1
						—
						71
						—

Houses which became void—Informal Action.

Mill Street, 42 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
St. George's Street, 16 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Walsall Road, 223 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wolverhampton Street, 109 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
						—
						4
						—

Houses on which Demolition Orders were made under Section 11.

Bilston Street, 32, 33, 34 ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dangerfield Lane, 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
						—
						4
						—

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.**Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 10.**

Walsall Road, 269 (front), 269 (rear)	2
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Rehousing Progress.

The Housing Manager has supplied the following information :

New Houses Let.	No. Sub- Tenents rehoused.	No. of Tenants rehoused.	New Bunga- lows. ..	Demolition Property Vacated. ..
223 ..	174 ..	25 ..	16 ..	70

Housing Act, 1936—Part III.

The housing position as regards action under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936, is as follows :—

	Number of Dwelling houses demolished.		Number of persons displaced up to 31/12/54.	Number of Dwelling Houses made fit.
	Unfit Houses.	Other Houses.		
PART A.				
Clearance Areas :—				
(i) Land coloured "pink" ..	218	—	981	—
(ii) Land coloured "grey" ..	—	—	—	—
PART B.				
Improvement Areas ..	—	—	—	—

Rehousing of the occupants of the houses in the Foundry Street and Park Street areas continued in 1954, a further 133 persons being rehoused during the year.

FOR YEAR 1954.

PART C.

Insanitary Houses not included in clearance areas or improvement areas.

Note.—The references below relate to Part 2 sections of the Act of 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of procedure under Section 11	.. .. ..	28
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of informal action	.. .. ..	2
(3)	Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use the house for human habitation	.. ..	2
(4)	Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	.. ..	—
(5)	Number of persons displaced as a result of action		
	Under (1) above	.. .. ..	97
	Under (2) above	.. .. ..	6
	Under (3) above	.. .. ..	13
	Under (4) above	.. .. ..	—

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. ..	228
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. .. .. ..	228
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ..	.. .. .. ..	33

(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. .. .. .. ..	33
(3)	Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. ..	18
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	.. .. .. .. ..	210
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.		
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	.. .. ..	92
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.		
(A)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.. .. .. .. ..	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a)	By owners	.. .. .. ..	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	.. .. .. ..	—
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.. .. ..	57
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By owners	.. .. .. ..	51
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	.. .. .. ..	—

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

Improvement Grants.

Grants totalling £4,612 16s. 5d. were approved by the Council in respect of the following 15 houses :—

Castle Street, 26, 21	..	..	..	..	2
King Edward Street, 47	..	..	..	..	1
Perry Street, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34			..	..	6
Willenhall Road, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83			..	..	5
Wolverhampton Street, 65	..	..	..	..	1
					—
					15
					—

Work was completed at the following houses :—

Castle Street, 26	..	..	..	..	1
Perry Street, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34			..	..	6
Willenhall Road, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83			..	..	5
					—
					12
					—

HOUSING SURVEY.

On the 30th August, 1954, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into operation. This Act had as one of its prime objectives the clearance and replacement of slum houses, and as a preliminary step, required the Council to submit proposals, within one year, for dealing with the houses in their area which appear to them to be unfit for human habitation.

In order to prepare these proposals it was necessary to survey the whole of the private houses in the town, and decide on external visible evidence, what degree of disrepair existed. Accordingly, so far as essential day to day work and the shortage of staff permitted, this survey was commenced. Details of the completed proposals will be included in next year's report.

PUBLIC BATHS.

The building is of modern construction and by virtue of its design and construction, compares favourably with any in the Midlands. Full provision is made for heating, filtering, and sterilising the 133,000 gallons of water contained in the swimming

pool. Slipper baths and foam and medicated baths are available. Periodical samples of the swimming pool water are taken and submitted for both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Nuisances.

Schedule of certain individual items found to be causing nuisance and in respect of which Notices were served :—

Defects causing nuisance.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Nuisances Abated.
Ceiling plaster	32	19	20
Chimneys/Flues	13	4	10
Dampness	41	12	13
Doors	19	9	11
Drain stoppages and defects	840	1	841
Dry rot/woodworm	9	7	9
Eavesgutters/rain water pipes	56	27	37
Filthy premises	1	—	1
Fireplaces	3	4	4
Floors	10	8	9
Flooded cellars	1	—	1
Potentially dangerous structures	1	1	—
Roofs	98	46	56
Sinks	8	2	5
Staircases	4	1	5
Walls (house structure)	13	6	7
Wall plaster	26	12	18
Washboilers	13	6	14
Wash-houses	28	16	33
W.C. Compartments	60	10	56
Water supply	19	3	19
Windows	38	16	26
Totals	1,333	210	1,195

Infectious Diseases and Disinfestation.

Visits to infectious disease cases	33
Premises disinfected after infectious disease or on request for other reasons	41
Premises disinfested in connection with verminous conditions	23
Terminal disinfection following deaths from Tuberculosis	6
Destruction of bedding	19
Steam disinfection of bedding	2
Steam disinfestation of bedding	1

REFUSE COLLECTIONS.

1954.	Refuse	Waste Paper			Kitchen Waste.		
		Tons	T. C. Q.	£ s. d.	T. C. Q.	£ s. d.	
January ..	663	18 6 1		119 0 8	3 12 3		14 1 11
February ..	618	15 17 2		103 3 10	2 18 0		11 4 9
March ..	687	15 0 0		97 10 0	2 18 1		11 5 9
April	594	16 7 3		106 10 4	3 1 0		11 16 5
May	611	14 13 2		95 7 9			Discontinued.
June	621	11 19 3		77 18 5			
July	640	22 19 3		149 8 5			
August	656	11 12 2		75 11 3			
September	667	14 13 0		95 4 6			
October	608	16 2 3		106 17 9			
November	665	14 17 0		103 19 0			
December	652	11 10 0		80 10 0			
Totals	7,682	183 19 3		1,211 1 11	12 10 0		48 8 10

This information has been supplied by courtesy of the Engineer and Surveyor to the Council.

MEAT AND FOODS.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, both of which are owned and operated by pork butchers. On the decontrol of meat in July it became the responsibility of the Local Authority to ensure adequate facilities for the slaughtering of animals by butchers in their district. After some negotiation it was finally arranged for the Council to lease one of the licensed slaughterhouses on 4½ days per week, and butchers wishing to slaughter entered into agreement with the Council. Only four butchers took advantage of this arrangement. The remainder either buy ready dressed carcases or utilise the slaughtering facilities of nearby slaughterhouses and abattoirs.

At the commencement a charge of 1/- was made for each animal slaughtered. This was later increased to 2/- per animal. Receipts from this source came to £113 9s. 0d.

17 persons are licensed as slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals legislation.

177 visits were made to slaughterhouses.

Animals slaughtered for Sale and Human Consumption.

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Total number killed	—	481	54	3255
Total number inspected ..	—	481	54	3255
Number killed by Pork Butchers	—	—	—	2529
Number killed in Council leased Slaughterhouse	—	481	54	701
Number killed on private premises	—	—	—	25
All Disease except Tuberculosis.				
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned ..	—	70	—	126
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	—	14.7	—	3.8
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	116
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	3.5

The weight of meat condemned in connection with the above table was 1 ton 0 cwts. 2 qrs. 10 lbs.

Unfit Food.

The following items were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Item.</i>	<i>lbs. ozs.</i>
2 tins Irish Stew	2
3 tins Herring Roe	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
434 packets Cheese	98 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Loose Cheese	30 8
72 packets Assorted Nuts	4 8
Chitterlings	1 8
3 bags Ox-tail Soup Powder	21
1 tin Beef and Vegetable	1
100 tins Tomatoes	117 12
16 tins Peas	15
44 tins Beans	25 7
28 tins Plums	42 1

<i>Item.</i>				<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
4 tins Strawberries	..	..	..	4	1
22 tins Grapefruit	..	..	..	16	15
17 tins Pineapple	..	..	..	17	14
6 tins Peaches	..	..	..	10	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 tins Greengages	..	..	..	12	
5 tins Apricots	..	..	..	4	14
Biscuits	..	..	..	37	
27 tins Gooseberries	..	..	..	27	10
9 tins Prunes	..	..	..	8	14
Bacon	..	..	..	6	
1 tin Sausages	..	..	..		10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sausages	..	..	..	8	11
1 tin Scotch Broth	..	..	..		10 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 tins Pears	..	..	..	3	
1 tin Damsons	..	..	..		13 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 tins Goldenberries	..	..	..	4	
11 tins Guaves	..	..	..	11	
3 tins Sardines	..	..	..		8 $\frac{1}{4}$
54 tins Cream	..	..	..	20	9
1 tin Syrup	..	..	..	1	
1 packet Cake Mixture	..	..	..	1	8
4 tins Dressed Crab	..	..	..		14 $\frac{3}{4}$
1 jar Malted Milk Powder	..	..	..		8
8 tins Figs	..	..	..	7	9
1 tin Creamed Cereal	..	..	..		9
2 tins Blackcurrants	..	..	..	2	13
3 tins Grapes	..	..	..	3	
6 tins Oranges	..	..	..	6	15
2 tins Whipping Cream	..	..	..	1	6
2 tins Pilchards	..	..	..	1	14
4 tins Apple Slices and Blackberries	..	..	..	3	12
1 tin Cherries	..	..	..		7
3 tins Fruit Salad	..	..	..	2	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 jar Chicken Paste	..	..	..		1
11 jars Jam	..	..	..	15	8
17 tins Salmon	..	..	..	16	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 tins Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	38	8
Luncheon Meat	..	..	..		17
2 tins Ham	..	..	..	27	14
Ham	..	..	..	18	8
Pork	..	..	..	17	8
11 tins Veal	..	..	..	63	
Veal	..	..	..	6	10

<i>Item.</i>						<i>lbs. ozs.</i>
1 tin Chicken ..	..	..	..	..	3	6
31 tins Corned Beef ..	..	..	..	..	139	6
12 tins Tongue ..	..	..	..	..	80	4
Tongue .. ..	..	..	..	..	14	
7 tins Stewed Steak ..	..	..	..	..	12	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 tins Meat ..	..	..	..	..	2	8
Pressed Meat ..	..	..	..	..	22	11
8 tins Meat Loaf ..	..	..	..	..	6	
3 tins Brisket Beef ..	..	..	..	..	12	
5 tins Soup ..	..	..	..	..	4	15
7 tins Tomato Juice ..	..	..	..	..	6	2
8 tins Unsweetened Milk ..	..	..	..	..	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	pints
<hr/>					<hr/>	
Total					1,115	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
					and 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints	
<hr/>					<hr/>	

Disposal of Unfit Foods.

Tinned goods which are not suitable for disposal by burning are transported to the Town Hall Yard where a workman smashes the tins to render the contents unusable. The resultant articles are then conveyed to the Council's controlled tip where they are deposited at the Base of the Working Face and the day's refuse deposited on top and consolidated to ensure there is no nuisance from fly breeding or smells and no opportunity given for rats to feed on this food.

Items of food such as parts of pig carcases, loose ham, etc., which are suitable for destruction by burning are, immediately after surrender to the Inspector, taken by a Council workman to the Council's Incinerator and forthwith destroyed by burning. The arrangements are such as to ensure that there is no possibility of any unfit food of this nature being diverted and finding its way to the public.

Fortunately there exists a very high degree of co-operation between the traders in the town and the staff of the Health Department which ensures adequate disposal of any unfit food.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

There is one Civic Restaurant in the area.

			<i>Number in District.</i>		<i>Visits Made.</i>
Catering Establishments	..	..	65	..	65
Bakehouses	..	..	6	..	6
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	16	..	32
Preserved Food Premises	..	..	5	..	20
Butchers' Shops	..	..	27	..	135
Ice Cream	..	..	78	..	78

MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the milk supply in the district is heat treated, approximately 75% of the milk retailed being sterilised.

There are no plants for the heat treatment of the milk in the district.

There are no producers of milk in the district.

The following were registered for the sale of milk in this area under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 :—

Supplementary Licences.

Sterilised	..	..	..	..	10
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	10
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	10

Dealer's Licences.

Sterilised	..	..	..	..	78
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	20
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	10

SAMPLING.

Dr. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following information regarding samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and details of samples of milk taken to ascertain cleanliness and efficient pasteurisation.

LIST OF SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR 1954.

Milk.

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	14
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	18
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	19
				—
				51
				—
Number of Samples taken	..	..	..	51
Number of Samples genuine	..	..	..	50
Number of Samples adulterated	..	..	..	1

General Foods.

Number of Samples taken	..	..	29
Number of Samples genuine	..	..	25
Number of Samples adulterated	..	..	4

Classification of General Foods.

Shredded Beef Suet with flour.	Table Jelly.
Clear Mints.	Foam Crystals.
Pineapple Chunks.	Sparkling Grape Saline.
Honeycome Mould	Sym Gravy.
Granulated Gravy Improver.	Mixed Candied Peel.
Salad Cream.	Shortex (Refined Fat).
Tomato Chutney.	Corned Beef.
Pork Sausage.	Apricot Halves in syrup.
Pork Dripping.	Irish Stewed Steak.
Ground Almonds.	Danish Butter.
Icefoam Crystals.	English Lard.
Rice Cremola.	Rhubarb in Heavy Syrup.
Beans with Tomato Sauce.	Almond Flavour.
Haggis Seasoning.	
Coffee and Chicory Rum flavoured.	
Kwits.	

Particulars of Adulterated Samples.

- (1) T.T. Pasteurised Milk—5% deficient in Fat.
Action taken—Repeat. Samples genuine.
- (2) Clear Mints—(Formal)—containing excessive amount of preservative.
Action taken—Taken up with manufacturers.

- (3) Sym Gravy—(Formal)—The sample was infested to a moderate extent with living flour mites.
Action taken—Old stock, withdrawn from sale.
- (4) Corned Beef—(Formal)—Contains an excessive amount of lead.
Action taken—Reported to Ministry of Food.
- (5) Rhubarb in Heavy Syrup—(Formal)—Contains excessive amounts of both tin and lead.
Action taken—Old stock, withdrawn from sale.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DURING 1954.

WATER SUPPLY.

Part of Darlaston is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. Periodically samples are examined. Throughout the year the supply was adequate and of satisfactory quality.

A typical sample showed the following analysis.

Results of Examination of Samples of Water taken on the 1st June, 1954.

Bacteriological Examination.

BACTERIA. Colonies per ml.
 Nutrient Agar at 20°C. 3 days—0
 Nutrient Agar at 37°C. 1 day—0
 Nutrient Agar at 37°C. 2 days—0

COLIFORM BACTERIA.
 Presumptive Test. Absent.
 Differentials Test. Absent.

Physical Characters.

Colour (Burgess)	3 mm.	Taste ..	Normal
Turbidity	Trace susp. matter.	Odour ..	Nil
pH	7.5		

Chemical Analysis (Expressed in Parts per Million).

Free CO ₂	7.5	Silica (SiO ₂)
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	176	Calcium (Ca)
Chlorides (Cl)	58.7	Magnesium (Mg)
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Trace	Sodium (Na)
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace	Carbonate (CO ₃)
Oxidised Nitrogen	2.6	Sulphate (SO ₄)
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs. at 27°C.) .. ..	.12	Iron (Fe) .. .. .03
Temporary Hardness	170	Manganese (Mn) .. .. .04
Permanent Hardness	22	Zinc (Zn) Nil
Total Hardness	192	Poisonous Metals Cu .. Nil
Totals Solids (dried at 180°C.)		Pb .. Nil
		Free Cl Nil

A pure and wholesome supply.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948 — (PART I).

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspec- tions. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. . .	1	2	3	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	92	127	1	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
Totals			94	130	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

34

Particulars.	M/c. line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted.
		Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) . . .	1	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) . . .	2	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.4)	3	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S.6)	4	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient . . .	5	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	1	—	—	1
(c) Not separate for sexes . . .	7	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) . . .	8	—	—	—	—
Total . . .	..	—	—	1	1

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Number of licences issued to store petrol or petroleum spirit	43
Number of gallons of petrol and petroleum spirit stored	45,650
Number of licences issued to store Carbide of Calcium	3
Amount of Carbide of Calcium stored	6 tons 4 cwts.
Number of licences issued to store Cellulose	4
Amount of cellulose stored	9,500 gallons

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The following treatments have been undertaken during the year :—

Business premises (Factories, shops, etc.)	..	..	33
Private dwelling houses—	..	..	57
Estimated kill (rats)	..	..	845
Estimated kill (mice)	..	..	566

Disinfestation.

24 premises were treated against insects and vermin.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No licences have been applied for or issued during the year.

CINEMAS.

Annual inspections for licensing purposes were carried out at three local cinemas.

Schedule of Housing Accommodation.

S U M M A R Y .

TOTAL — ALL WARDS.

	Erec- ted by L.A.	Total Dwell- ing Houses	No. with 1 Bed- room.	No. with 2 Bed- rooms.	No. with 3 Bed- rooms.	No. with 4 Bed- rooms.	Total Bed- rooms.	Total Living rooms.
Catherines								
Cross ..	926	1684	26	465	1080	57	4424	2888
Central ..	774	1305	61	371	852	30	3479	2027
Bentley ..	928	1491	13	471	997	10	3986	2439
The Green ..	270	963	18	422	502	11	2412	1764
All Saints ..	61	842	13	490	314	22	2023	1589
Totals ..	2959	6285	131	2219	3746	130	16324	10707

